REMARKS

In view of the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 CFR §1.111, reconsideration of the Official Action of September 30, 2003 is respectfully requested by Applicants.

The Examiner has made currently pending claims 1-11 subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner requires restriction under 35 USC §121 to one of the following groups of inventions:

I. Claims 1-6 drawn to methods of detecting the presence of an HIV protease inhibitor in a sample, classified in class 424, subclass 7.4.

II. Claims 7-11 drawn to kits comprising a receptor for an HIV protease inhibitor and a ligand for said inhibitor coupled to a signal-generating moiety, classified in class 530, subclass 388.35.

Election of Invention and Restriction for Examination

Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, for prosecution at this time, with traverse.

Traversal of Restriction Requirement

The Examiner argues that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as product and process of use. The Examiner argues that the kit may be used either in the method of Group I, or in methods for the detection or identification of agonists or antagonists of the HIV protease inhibitor, and thus the two sets of inventions are distinct.

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the Examiner's argument. The kit of claims 7-11, comprising a receptor for an HIV protease inhibitor and a ligand for said inhibitor coupled to a signal-generating moiety, is only useful for detecting an HIV protease inhibitor. The receptor is *specific* for the HIV protease inhibitor (see limitation in

claim 1, paragraph (a), and in claim 7, paragraph (a). It is not cross-reactive with other compounds in the sample, including agonists or antagonists of the HIV protease inhibitor. The method of claims 1-6 is specifically for determining an HIV protease inhibitor, and the method requires a receptor *specific* for the inhibitor and a conjugate comprising a ligand of the inhibitor and a non-isotopic signal generating moiety. It is not a screening method.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants argue that the claims of Groups I and II are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept and comprise the same or corresponding technical features. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

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The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

November 13, 2003

Marilyn L. Amick
Reg. No. 30,444

Roche Diagnostics Corp.
9115 Hague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250
Phone: 317-576-7561
Fax: 317-576-2883